



- The Hughes OH-6 "Cayuse" (popularly recognized as the "Loach") was a revolutionary light helicopter mount primarily in service with the United States Army and saw combat in the Vietnam War.

- Fewer than 2,000 of the type were produced though the original went on to spawn a plethora of viable performers including the Hughes 500 "Defender" and the special forces-minded MH-6 "Little Bird".

- The United States Army initially selected two designs - one from Bell Helicopters and the other from Fairchild-Hiller. However, the Hughes submission was later added to the fold and all three concerns were funded for development of five prototype vehicles.

- With US Army evaluations of each prototype ongoing, the underpowered Bell offering was formally dropped from contention and the US Army decision favored the Hughes design over the Fairchild-Hiller. The Army charged Hughes for 714 units with the serial production contract formally announced in May of 1965. Sensing its growing battlefield requirements, the Army raised the production to 1,300 units.

Performance and Weights:

Length: 30.84 feet

Width: 27.33

Height: 8.53 feet

Maximum Speed: 175 mph

Maximum Range: 267 miles

Service Ceiling: 15,994 feet

Rate of Climb: 2,067 feet-per-minute

Can include a combination of the following across two fuselage wingstubs with some from cabin doors.

7.62mm M60 general purpose machine gun

7.62mm M134 minigun pod

12.7mm M2 Browning heavy machine gun pod

2.75" (70mm) Hydra 70 rocket pod

TOW Anti-Tank Guided Missile pod

AGM-114 Hellfire Anti-Tank missile pod